

File 474

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Stendal

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES [REDACTED]

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REMARKS

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1. On 2 and 5 January 1951, soldiers observed at the Albrocht der Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebertstrasse, Stendal (M 53/Y 85), wore red-bordered black epaulets. Some truck drivers wore black epaulets. On 2 January 1951, trucks [REDACTED] entered the installation, each towing a 45-mm AT gun. Four T-34/85 tanks were seen leaving the installation [REDACTED]

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2. About 150 troops from the Hindenburg Kaserne, who wore crimson epaulets, were engaged in drill at the sporting grounds in Duergorpark (municipal park) on 5 January 1951. [REDACTED]

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3. The Tauentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse quartered about 1,500 troops. Soldiers observed wore crimson epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets. [REDACTED]

4. All units stationed in Stendal were at the post between 2 and 10 January 1951. No changes in the disposition [REDACTED] Troops in all barracks [REDACTED]

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installations and at the drill fields were engaged in drill at squad level and in close-combat practice. Four telephone sections, each of eight men carrying telephone equipment, marched out of the Hindenburg Kaserne on 5 January 1951. The following installations were occupied to capacity:

- a. Tauentzien Kaserne, gate guards of which wore red-bordered black epaulets.

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- b. Hindenburg Kaserne, gate guards of which wore black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia.

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- c. Albrecht der Baer Kaserne, gate guards of which wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia.

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5. The Soviet quarters on Thaelmannstrasse, formerly Moltkestrasse, were occupied by MVD personnel and guarded by soldiers wearing green epaulets.

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6. Sentries at the Soviet quarters on Haferbreiterweg wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia.

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7. The buildings of the restricted area on Hardenbergstrasse or Gardelegenerstrasse, which borders on the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne, housed a headquarters which had previously been located in Thaelmannstrasse, formerly Moltkestrasse.

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8. Troops stationed at the Forstel airfield wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Ten to twelve groups of soldiers were seen drilling in front of the hangars on 9 January 1951. Thirty-six soldiers with artillery insignia were observed marching to the ammunition dump near the airfield.

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the airfield was occupied by 400 to 500 men who were equipped with eight guns.

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9. Trucks were identified on their way from Stendal to the ammunition dump. They were loaded with ammunition boxes.

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10. Between 27 December 1950 and 13 January 1951, a new fence was constructed which resulted in the inclusion of two large tenement houses and three one-family houses into the billeting area of the Tauentzien Kaserne. Three one-family houses opposite the barracks installation were occupied by officers. The total billeting capacity of the entire billeting area was estimated at 2,000 troops. (7) The Tauentzien Kaserne quartered primarily troops wearing crimson epaulets and some troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. About 80 percent of the TM had closely cropped hair. Officers observed had no branch-of-service insignia. About 150 men were drilling in the barracks yard on 4 January 1951. About 450 troops left the installation for the drill field on 10 January 1951, while additional units totaling about 500 men assembled in the barracks yard. Source estimated that not less than 1,200 men were stationed in the Tauentzien Kaserne. On 29 December 1950, 34 trucks were counted in the barracks yard, while about 40 more trucks were seen through the open doors of the garages. Three tanks were standing in one garage.

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11. The Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied by about 2,000 troops, about 60 percent of whom were recruits. Soldiers observed wore black-bordered crimson epaulets, black epaulets, and red-bordered black epaulets. A large percentage of the officers billeted in the installation wore tank insignia, and some wore artillery insignia. A T-34 tank entered the installation on 8 January 1951. Tank treads on the ground indicated that more tanks must have moved into the installation previously. At about 2:30 p.m. on 8 January 1951, a convoy of eight trucks was observed transporting about 200 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets.

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About 100 troops were engaged in close combat training in the area between the Hindenburg Kaserne and the Stendal-Wittenberg railroad line.

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12. The Albrecht der Baer Kaserne quartered about 2,000 troops. Soldiers observed wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets. A high-echelon headquarters was still located in the buildings along Hardenbergstrasse, each of which was guarded by a sentry. A fence around the billeting area blocked the view into it. The reports of machine guns, submachine guns, and carbines were heard daily from the installation. The noise of moving track-laying vehicles was heard on

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- (1) [redacted] Comments. [redacted] the headquarters units of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps and the elements of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div stationed in the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne were in their quarters at the beginning of January 1951.

- (2) The Hindenburg Kaserne quarters component units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div for the most part. The estimates of the number of troops there fluctuate between 500 and 2,000. [redacted]

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- (3) The estimates of the number of troops in the Taunentzien Kaserne fluctuate between 600 and 1,500. [redacted]

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- [redacted] the installation is believed to be occupied by 1,200 to 1,500 troops.

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- (4) [redacted] the Soviet kommandatura and an MVD unit are located on Ernst Thaelmannstrasse, formerly Moltkestrasse. [redacted]

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[redacted] confirms information of [redacted] that a headquarters moved from Ernst Thaelmannstrasse to buildings on the street on which the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne is located. [redacted]

[redacted] called this street the former Gardelegenerstrasse, [redacted] refers to it as Hardenbergstrasse or Gardelegenerstrasse. However, [redacted] the city plan of September 1948 show that the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne is located on Friedrich Ebertstrasse which, leading toward Gardelegen, is probably also called Gardelegenerstrasse by the local population. Whether the street concerned was named Hardenbergstrasse prior to its redesignation in Friedrich Ebertstrasse is not clear. This point requires clarification particularly since [redacted]

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[redacted] former Hardenbergstrasse is allegedly now called Fichtestrasse. [redacted] However, according to the city plan, Fichtestrasse is in the eastern sector of the so-called Russian Quarter, and south of its intersection with Friedrich Ebertstrasse, is called Ernst Thaelmannstrasse.

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- (5) A motor transport unit of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div is stationed in the former Reit-und Fahrschule (riding and driving school), also called Viehhalle (cattle auction hall), on Haferbreiterweg.

- (6) [redacted] the quarters at the Borstel airfield were occupied by a signal unit of about 150 men and an artillery unit of 500 to 600 men, the latter unit having moved into billets previously occupied by air force personnel.

[redacted] an artillery unit there, which, [redacted]

[redacted] is either a component of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div or a headquarters unit of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps.

- (7) The enlargement of the billeting area by including civilian houses [redacted] is thus confirmed. [redacted] The estimate of the billeting capacity is believed correct.

- (8) [redacted] the Albrecht der Paer Kaserne quarters about 2,000 men. [redacted] the number of troops there at 400 to 500, is discredited. [redacted]

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